

Burden v. CSC
Affidavit of Don Cooper
1-1-1981

AFFIDAVIT

I, DON COOPER, under oath depose and say:

1. That on or about the evening of January 21, 1980,

I attended a meeting between Tanja Burden and Allen Allweiss, Dennis Quilligan, Lee Fugate from the Office of the State Attorney in Pinellas County, Florida, and some other individuals at the home of Edd Walters in Las Vegas, Nevada.

2. When the three men from the State Attorney's Office first arrived they identified themselves showing us their identification and stated they were from the county in which the city of Clearwater is located.

3. The entire conversation held at this meeting was tape-recorded, by one of the men with the exception of some portions of the conversation which occurred during the time when the tapes were being replaced.

4. Allweiss stated that it was their purpose to locate persons in Las Vegas, Nevada, who would be willing to testify about criminal activities of the Church of Scientology against its own members.

5. He stated their purpose as that we want to kill this organization. We want it to die. We'll reach in and snuff it out. He made similar statements to this effect several times during the meeting.

6. Allweiss stated that it was his office's intention to keep the media well informed of their actions against the Church, with the goal of encouraging other prosecutors around the country to bring similar charges against the Church in order to totally destroy the Church.

7. Allen Allweiss also stated they had come to Las Vegas because they had seen newspaper stories about Michael Flynn's suit against the Church in Boston and they got in touch with Flynn and told him of their desire to do something about Scientologists in Clearwater. Allweiss then stated that they got our names from Flynn.

8. Mr. Allweiss stated that by invoking a 1977 Florida racketeering statute like the one enacted federally in the early 70's, they wanted to proof that Scientology was carrying on illegal activities under this statute.

9. Mr. Allweiss stated that they were informing the newspapers about their investigation. He stated that such publicity would encourage others to launch attacks against the Church.

10. Eddie Walters told Mr. Allweiss that Mr. Flynn asked him to write affidavits for use in getting a warrant for a raid on the Church in Clearwater. He showed it to Mr. Allweiss.

11. Mr. Allweiss expressed an interest to talk to Tanja Burden because she had knowledge about the Church in Clearwater which could be useful to them. In the evening of that day Allweiss questioned Tanja Burden.

12. I have read the Burden complaint and the following things come to my mind in regards to the questions asked by Allweiss that deal with the subject matters of the complaint. Mr. Allweiss asked Burden to briefly state her history in Scientology. When she was talking about being in the Cadet Org Mr. Allweiss asked her whether or not she was prevented from seeing her parents. Her answer was to the effect that there was no problem on seeing her parents.

13. Mr. Allweiss also questioned her about how she left the Church of Scientology in Clearwater and she explained that she "snuck" out because she did not want to go through the "hassles" of the regular procedure of leaving staff. She did not indicate that she was physically restrained from leaving the Church.

14. She also stated that after she had left the Church two people from the Church came to see her and asked her to see L. Ron Hubbard and that, after some debate, decided to do that and willingly went with them to Los Angeles. In her complaint she gives a far different version of this event.

15. The most surprising thing about this interview and interviews of others by men of the State Attorney's Office was the manner of the questioning. The questions were extremely leading frequently suggesting the conclusion sought. For example, Mr. Allweiss questioned one person in the following manner: "Tell me about how they brainwashed you in auditing, how the auditor must have banged on the table and did not let you leave." Or, similarly, "Boy, he must have really brainwashed you, tell me how you couldn't leave, how you were held against

your will. You didn't want to stay, did you? Then they must have held you against your will. That's kidnapping, did you know that? Would you be willing to testify they kidnapped you?"

16. Under penalty of perjury I declare that the foregoing is true and correct.

Don Cooper
DON COOPER

Subscribed and sworn before me this 9th day of January
of the year 1981.

J. M. Morgan
NOTARY PUBLIC

Notary Public, State of Florida at Large
My Commission Expires Nov. 7, 1981
Banded by American Law & Casualty Company